

OKYEAME



Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured. According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

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February 15 2007

American Embassy,
Accra

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CLO Office Hours



Mon-Fri
8am-12:00pm

If you have news, classified, suggestions, letters, restaurant reviews etc. for the Okyeame, please write to the Editor, **Mikelle Antoine** at:

accraokyeame@yahoo.com
Deadline Monday 5pm

Please let us know what you would like to see in the Okyeame. Your suggestions, criticism and story ideas are most welcome!

The Okyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, suggestions and classified ads to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Submission deadline is COB Monday of publication week. Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana. Ads will be run for three weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold before the three weeks are up, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Ads and submissions are accepted based on appropriateness and relevance to the Embassy community. Okyeame is a Twi word meaning linguist, or chief's spokesperson.

CELEBRATING VALENTINE'S DAY *continues on page 3... okyeame*

February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial -- which probably occurred around 270 A.D -- others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. The boys then sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goathide strips.

Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE DU BOIS CENTR **February: Black History Month**

Narrated Exhibit "The Influence of Pan-Africanism on Ghana's Independence"

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 15 February at 4:00 p.m. | <p>"The Journey to Ghana: Diasporans Who have Settled in Ghana"</p> <p>Mrs. Theresa Kwakye, MA in African Studies, Univ. of Ghana; Director of Ghana Study Programs for American students.</p> |
| 23 February at 4:00 p.m. | <p>"Icons of Pan-Africanism" - Du Bois Birthday Program: Panel Discussion by SSS Students on The Influence of Pan-Africanism on Ghana's Independence</p> |
| 25 February at 3:00 p.m. | <p>"Black Flicks" <i>W.E.B. Du Bois: A Biography in Four Voices</i></p> |
| 2 – 24 March | <p>Exhibit by members of the Foundation for Contemporary Art</p> |
| 11 March at 2:00 p.m. | <p>"Diasporans Answering Nkrumah's Call": Presentations by two
Diaspora-initiated projects empowering residents of refugee camps in Ghana</p> |
| 11 March at 4:00 p.m. | <p>"Black Flicks": <i>Lumumba: Death of a Prophet</i></p> |
| 22 March at 4:00 p.m. | <p>"Icons of Pan-Africanism" - Lecture by Prof. N'Dri Assie-Lumumba, Cornell University</p> |
| 25 March at 3:00 p.m. | <p>"Black Flicks": <i>Sankofa</i></p> |

Celebrating Ghana @ 50

Continued from page 2.

In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America. According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.) Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia. Valentine greetings were popular as far back as the Middle Ages (written Valentine's didn't begin to appear until after 1400), and the oldest known Valentine card is on display at the British Museum. The first commercial Valentine's Day greeting cards produced in the U.S. were created in the 1840s by Esther A. Howland. Howland, known as the Mother of the Valentine, made elaborate creations with real lace, ribbons and colorful pictures known as "scrap".

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial -- which probably occurred around 270 A.D. -- others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would then sacrifice a goat, for fertility, and a dog, for purification. The boys then sliced the goat's hide into strips, dipped them in the sacrificial blood and took to the streets, gently slapping both women and fields of crops with the goathide strips. Far from being fearful, Roman women welcomed being touched with the hides because it was believed the strips would make them more fertile in the coming year. Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then each choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. The Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian and outlawed. Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance. The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England. Several years later, it is believed that King Henry V hired a writer named John Lydgate to compose a valentine note to Catherine of Valois. In Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it was common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small tokens of affection or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards began to replace written letters due to improvements in printing technology. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged. Cheaper postage rates also contributed to an increase in the popularity of sending Valentine's Day greetings. Americans probably began exchanging hand-made valentines in the early 1700s. In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland began to sell the first mass-produced valentines in America. According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. (An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas.)

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Source: Special thanks to American Greetings. www.history.com/minisites/valentine

As an adventurer, walking in the Aburi Hills, Shai Hills and the Amedzofe Mountains is exiting and refreshing, especially after some hard working weeks in steaming hot Accra. The only missing challenge within these three beautiful locations in Ghana is the limited altitude, the mountain peaks reach. Is there any alternative in West Africa? Yes, give it a shot and within a day or three, you are at an altitude of 4100 m! Arranging a visa for Cameroon could be difficult but with the help of some friends in Abidjan, the visas were ready within a week. Flying to Cameroon from Accra could also be difficult, challenging and expensive but a combined car-motorbike-plane journey from Cotonou seemed to be the most attractive option (only \$ 450). While one of our friends took the plane to Abidjan, partly for business, we took off by car towards the border town of Aflao. Custom formalities (visas for Togo and Benin are available in Accra) was just a matter of following the queues and within an hour and just 100 m after the border we were enjoying a "brochette avec haricot verts" and a tasty glass of white wine in restaurant Hibiscus (behind the German Embassy) in Lomé. While buying Togo football T-shirts on the street, the negotiations about the taxi fare (CFA 22.000) towards Cotonou with an uncle of the street seller, were progressing; now and then interrupted by "Jeu de Boules" balls, thrown by French marines, dressed up in the well known desert, camel-colour and the too-small military shirts and trousers. With an average speed of 100 km/hr, three hours later and completely shaken-up by the French way of driving, the Beninoise taxi driver dropped us off at the junction of route de Lomé and Avenue de la République in Cotonou. The last part to the airport took place at the back of a yellow motorcycle, "zemi-johns", criss-crossing through the traffic, avoiding other street devils on two or four wheels, while balancing with our 40 kg luggage on our backs. After the check-in formalities at the airport, we enjoyed a nice cold beer in a small bar, Absolut, and a nice French meal in restaurant Tenanga (both located near the piste Amelco). At midnight and some hours and whiskeys later, we joined our friend in the Air Ivoire plane, coming from Abidjan towards Douala in Cameroon.

Arriving at 2 am at the dead silent, futuristic, from the late 1960's look-a-like airport, is a breathtaking experience, especially when you have passed your yellow book check-point. Being picked up by a friend and colleague is a relief and after driving through the complete darkness, we tumbled in bed in the Hotel Ibis, downtown Douala. The next morning, a 15 minutes walk through the narrow, fully packed with cars and roaming street-sellers, centre, was just enough to change our West African CFA's into Central African CFA's ! After some shopping in one of the upper-class (expatriate) Koala's (chocolate and bars give energy in the mountains), we took off in a small car towards the south-western region of Cameroon. Leaving Douala is not different from leaving Accra, except there is only one deteriorated road-bridge, crossing a large lagoon, which you have to pass in order to enter the outskirts of Douala (like on the road to Kasoa) and the interior of the region. Since the last presidential elections, the population of Douala and the south-western region had voted in general against the sitting president (resident of Yaounde) resulting in a cash flow stop for the rehabilitation of infrastructure projects. Crossing the river Wouri still happens over an artificial steel pontoon bridge (made in France) since the original bridge was washed away two years ago. While enjoying the green scenery of the region (large palm, banana (Del Monte) and rubber (Misselele) plantations), the small car encountered some usual African problems; an overheated engine and a broken clutch. At this point, we decided to take a shared taxi for the last 20 km towards Buea, just in time before darkness.

Arriving in the mountains at an altitude of 1000 m in Buea was really a refreshment; low hanging rainy clouds, mist and here and there some sunshine. After a warm welcome at the Mount Cameroon Ecotourism Organisation by a very charming lady, we discussed with her the three days tour (Summit-Mann Spring tour), the volume of water and food to take along with us during the trip. The question if she had climbed the mountain herself was replied with a long screaming "yes and never again!". According to the lady, everything was possible, "yes, yes and no problems"; resulting in one guide and three porters for three days. Satisfied and somehow tired we arranged accommodation in Hotel la Capitale and enjoyed a nice Cameroonian meal in the Pavilion of OIC. Keeping in mind that everything was possible, we arrived early at the tourism office to settle the load of our luggage to-

-gether with the food and water and guess; the problems started now!. The porters have been complaining about the weight of our luggage: maximum of 15 kg per porter. No problem; then we take 4 porters! Impossible! Repacking of our luggage (food for two days, 8 bottles of water per person) took more than one hour! A bit annoyed but also relieved, we took off at an altitude of 1010 m in the middle of well maintained farmlands. The first hours of the walk were characterized by a constant ascending pace through small scale farms of corn, cassava and bananas, passing a small heavily armed prison where prisoners were weeding and planting. Within minutes, the vegetation was changing into a dense tropical forest. The footpath became smaller, crossing small streams in an up-and-down trend and humidity was increasing. Typical Aburi trees, plants, flowers and butterflies were encountered while suddenly hut 1 (1865 m) appeared through the bush. Time for some rest, stretching the legs, checking my first blisters and waiting too long for the small lunch (noodle soup), prepared by the passive, not yet really interested porters because the rented gas cooker was not performing at all at this altitude. After two hours of rest, it was time to continue towards hut 2. Just after a 30 minute walk, we were overtaken by a strong wind and heavy fog, the tropical forest stopped and the plain savannah started; millions of elephant grass stumps in front and ahead of us! A stretch of savannah grassland (with these stumps) was our next target to overcome an altitude of 1000 m, hip-hopping from grass root to grass root, the trail limited marked with some white stones.

Arriving at a temporary abandoned hut at 2300 m was a good resting point to obtain more energy for the final 500 m, enjoying the beautiful scenery around us and relieving the pressure on the blisters. For me personally, these last 500 m walking uphill were the most painful ones of the whole trip, resting after every 25 m climbing, ignoring the pains in my thighs and not thinking of the mess in my walking shoes. Finally and after more than 8 hours climbing and overcoming an altitude of 1850 m over a distance of 6 km (average 20% ascend), I arrived at hut 2 (2865 m) completely exhausted, while my friends were already enjoying the views over the valley with a glass of whiskey in their hands. While the porters, Fred, Augustine, Albert and Adolf were preparing our first class dinner (macaroni with fish stew) under supervision of our guide Martin, we were discussing the excitements of the day, having a view on the mountaintop itself. Dinner was finished within 10 minutes while shivering from the windy cold and just after the sunset, we prepared ourselves for the night in the iron sheet shed. The noise of roaming and eating rats all over the place, kept us unfortunately alert the whole night. By midnight and finally gone, we were again disturbed, this time by the late arrival of two climbers who started the trip around 5 pm. (climbing by night seems to be exciting for some natives!) The next morning, wake up time at six; drinking coffee and tea, eating some bars and dry bread and off we went for the last ascend of 1300 m. This part of the trip, up to hut 3 was characterized by scattered rocks, low vegetation and a small walking trail, with an average ascend of more than 20%. We arrived at hut 3 (3850 m) around 11 am after passing one of the total collapsed late-arrival climbers of the night before, and a short stop with a welcome hot coffee was necessary to warm the body and especially the hands.

Being a bit nervous what to expect of climbing the last 200 m with strong winds and fog, we continued the walk as quickly as possible. The trail lurched through a flat, hilly, black and volcanic surface with all peaks around us. Not much later and luckily, at an altitude of approx. 4000 m, we had a very nice view of the top. At that overwhelming point, the three of us were wondering if that top was indeed the highest point of Mount Cameroon. Fifteen minutes later around noon, we arrived at the top of MOUNT CAMEROON (4095 m), embracing each other, enjoying the beautiful scenery around us and indeed fighting against the strong cold winds. Within a few minutes and 50 m lower, heavy clouds were gathering around the top; lucky we were! The descend from the top towards Mainspring (2440 m) is a track through a diversity of environments. A steep descend through the volcanic, black soils comes to an abrupt standstill in a large valley, completely covered with old lava streams. A well deserved lunch of bread, soup, coffee and sardines, prepared by our unwilling porters, under a lonely tree, was successfully absorbed, prior to cross these enormous lava streams. **Accra, April 2006. Reprinted with permission from author.**

AROUND TOWN

North American Women's Association (NAWA) promotes friendship among North American women, and between North American & Ghanaian women. NAWA fundraises for charitable organizations that support women and children in Ghana. Meetings are held on the **second Thursday of each month**, between September and May. Join us at **6:45pm** at the **Coconut Regency Hotel**. Look forward to meeting new friends, supporting worthy causes in Ghana and participating in cultural and social activities. The NAWA published book, *No More Worries*, can be found in stores throughout Ghana. Check the www.noworriesghana.com website or go to www.nawaghana.com. Call secretary Carol Pietryk at 0242 108273 (email: icpietryk@yahoo.ca) or president Monica Carr at 0243 680799 for further information. "You are welcome."

Ghana International Women's Club Formed in 1980 with the intention of establishing a strong bond of friendship among 'women of the world', and fostering a better understanding of one another's cultures. Members organize fundraising events and volunteer work. Monthly meetings every 2nd Wed at **Kohinoor Restaurant in Osu** at 9:30 am.

Ghana Bead Society Develop knowledge, appreciation, and interest in beads in Ghana, both from a traditional and contemporary point of view. Monthly meetings at the DuBois Center, East Cantonments; 4:30 pm, first Thursday of each month. Contact Trish Graham at 764-349 or e-mail: trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Alliance Française Provides French classes for children and adults, and hosts numerous cultural events. Located on Liberation Link Road, Airport Residential. Tel: 773-134.

American Chamber of Commerce promotes commercial, economic, educational and cultural ties between the U.S. and Ghana. Their regular luncheon meetings are on the last Wednesday of the month at La Palm from 12-2:30. Tel: 247-562, 024-251-605. E-mail: amchamgh@ghana.com; Website: www.amcham_africa.org. Located at Hse #C609/3 5th Crescent St, Asylum Down.

Scottish Country Dancing The Caledonian Society of Ghana: Scottish Country dancing is back. All are welcome to join in at the Grasscutters club, every Tuesday night from 7.30pm. For more information call 0244 069 169 or e mail caledonianghana@yahoo.co.uk
Accragio, a singing group open to expatriates and Ghanaians, is preparing its next program and welcoming all new singers, especially altos and tenors. For more information, please con-

tact Rodger French: deluxevaudeville@earthlink.net or 024-664-9487.

Energize yourself and reduce stress with **Hatha Yoga** at YMCA Mon-Wed-Friday, 5:30 pm - 7 pm. Contact Peace on 024-422-6079 or 775-348 ext. 4277.

The International Players The International Players is a local amateur dramatic group that performs publicly. Anyone interested in amateur theater is invited to participate. For information contact: Trish Graham at 764-349 or e-mail: trish_graham@hotmail.com.

Bunko is up and running here in Accra! Fast paced, easy to learn, no skill required, (**ladies only!**) dice game. We meet monthly at rotating houses. For more info or to sign up, email Kylie at edhrcir@hotmail.com.

Theater Mirrors. A local Ghanaian acting troupe, begun in 1986, whose members perform every Friday night at **Bywel Bar**, located across the street from Sotrec Grocery in Osu. Admission is free. 8 PM. The acting group is also available for private performances. Call 024-678956 for details.

Ghana National Theatre Monthly Symphony Program "Sunday at Five" held the last Sunday of every month **is now at Christ the King Parish Hall due to renovations.** Still at 5 pm, still a bargain at 20,000 cedis, 665-735 or 663-467.

Friends of Bill W. Meet Monday evenings 7-8 pm near the Cathedral in Adabraka. Contact Ludwin 020-2018540 or Lydia 024-611385.

Happy Hour Fridays at 5:30 pm an informal group meets for unwinding at the Labone Coffee Shop. All are welcome.

Hash House Harriers (Accra) The Hash House Harriers has been described as a '*drinking group with a running problem.*' However, non-drinkers and walkers are welcome. The Hash runs every Monday, with a 5:15 pm **sharp** departure. Location varies. Contact acrahhh@yahoo.com for details.

Hash House Harriers (Tema) is composed of Ghanaians and expats in and around the Tema area and welcome families with children. Every Thursday at 5:15 April thru October and 5:00 pm November thru March. Contact Frank Davis, at frank.davis@valcotema.com or call 020-201-1525 for information on directions to starting point.

Duplicate Bridge group meets every Tuesday night at 7:30. Any questions please contact Gerry Gray Thibodeau for information or to arrange a partner, 021-775-414. (evenings)
Pick-up Basketball Tuesday evenings (6-8 pm) at GIS. Everyone is invited to join the fun. For

additional information, please contact Ted Lawrence (tlawrence@usaid.gov) or Rob Clausen (rclausen@usaid.gov). They can also be reached by telephone at 228-440.

Pippa's Health and Fitness Center in Osu runs **Tumble Tots** on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30-11:45 am for 40,000 cedis a day. Toddlers can run around, play, and climb on the gym's tumble equipment and meet other toddlers in the area. Parents or nannies are welcome. Call 22 44 88 for more info.

Mom/Dad & Tots (3 and under) at British High Commission Grasscutters Return. Wednesdays 9:30-11:15 am.

Taekwondo at Pippa's Health and Fitness Center. Adults and kids are welcome. Learn from National Champion Master Stephen Yeboah. Call for registration: 22 44 88.

Frisky's International Film Buff Club views films Tuesdays 7pm. Call Ian at 0244 363017 or Katya at 024 329679 for directions or to receive a map by email.

Free Meditation each Wed at 6-7pm. Free pranic healing Wed. 10am-6pm. At the GMCKS Pranic Healing Center, 1st floor, Pyramid House, Ring Road central (Next to Alitalia). Website: www.pranichealing.org Phone: 0275089645 Mythili Raja Mohen

International Spouses Association of Ghana (ISAG) Are you a non-Ghanaian married to a Ghanaian? If yes, then come and meet others in a similar relationship. First Wednesday of every month at 5.30pm at Ghana International School film room. It's fellowship with some serious bits! For more information, contact Judd on 024-476-7063 or Nina on 024-477-8229 or email isag@ighmail.com

The Accra Tema Yacht Club (ATYC) is in Ada on the Volta River, 1½ hours from Accra, close to Manet Paradis Hotel. Races of catamarans and sail boats are held monthly. ATYC has 3 Lasers available for daily or hourly rental, a small bar and four chalets where members may stay overnight. **New members are welcome** as are day visitors for which a nominal daily charge is payable. Contact dmcallag@gmail.com -or- Duncan.macnicol@asc-gh.com

African American Association of Ghana (AAAG). General meetings held every third Saturday of the month. 2-4pm at the W.E.B. Dubois Center in Cantonments. For more info call 021-785438 or sankofaaaag@yahoo.com

Fit & Fun Gymnastics Club for children from 2 years and teenagers. Learn the basics of movement improve flexibility, balance and body awareness. Gymnastics helps them learn self discipline, patience and have more self confidence. Call 024 3515889 for info.



WANTED: USAID/ West Africa

Title of position: Governance & Conflict Mitigation
Program Assistant USAID/West Africa Conflict &
Governance Team, Accra, Ghana

Area of consideration: U.S Citizen – Resident hire.

Salary range: \$31,740 - \$41,262 (GS/7) per annum depending upon
experience and salary history.

Period of service: One year. Minimum Requirement: Diploma or bachelor's degree in social sciences with at least three months professional experience. Opening date: January 29, 2007. Closing date: February 20, 2007.

Contact person: Thomas Yeboah, Regional Contract Office, USAID/West Africa at tyeboah@usaid.gov for complete position description listing all the duties and responsibilities.



eNEWS

BBC RADIO AFRICA AWARDS

The Africa Radio Awards are about celebrating the best of radio broadcasting across the continent of Africa . The Africa Radio Awards is a chance for these broadcasters to show the rest of the continent what they've been able to achieve and to celebrate their excellence. BBC World Service will announce the winners of the West Africa Regional Final at a press conference due to take place at British Council on 20 February 2007 at 2:30pm.

AARON GOES INTO ACTION

Aaron mingled with the likes of Sir David Green, Director-General (British Council) and Hillary Benn, Secretary for Department of International Development at the launch of Debate to Action in the UK . Aaron Lawson, a trained teacher, a professional youth development worker, the programme coordinator for Higher Learning Ghana and a volunteer for RESPECT Ghana will make a presentation on the impact of DTA on his life. As done in Ghana , 20

young people from London will pilot the UK project and in turn cascade their learning to 20 schools and youth organisations, having an impact on over 400 young people. Read the press release.

SERVING SCIENCE @ CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

A short topical science talk - leading to an invigorating discussion with the gathered participants. This is the format of the new and exciting Café Scientifique jointly launched by the Ghana Education Service (GES) and the British Council which was graced by the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, the new Director General GES and Director Science Education Unit. This renewed focus is to foster greater interest from students with a view to shoring up the depleting numbers of scientists. More on Café Scientifique.

JOHN PAYNE AWARDED OBE

John Payne, former Director, British Council Ghana has been chosen by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to receive an OBE (Order of the British Empire) for his exceptional work for the British Council while in Ghana (2003 - 2006). 'I feel very pleased...honours like this are also an acknowledgement of the achievements and efforts of colleagues with whom they have worked. So I would like to say many thanks and the very best wishes to all my former colleagues in Accra and Kumasi

Education UK - Institution visits

Quartic Training - 12 February 2007

Quartic Training has been set up to offer full-time and professional courses in London for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Program. The Program itself covers a wide range of technical subjects, from asset valuation to economics and from quantitative methods to ethical standards.

Further details can be found at www.quartic-training.co.uk and of the program at www.cfainstitute.org.

Cardiff University - 16 - 17 February 2007

University of Glamorgan - 16 February 2007

Queen Mary University - 27 March 2007

For details on the other visits, send us an email or call us on (021) 683068.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Okyeame is published weekly by the United States Mission, Accra. It is for the use of all Mission employees and their families. Post activities and items of general interest are included in this newsletter. Please send news items, and classified ads to accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Classified ads may be placed by members of the Mission or members of other foreign missions stationed in Ghana. Submission deadline is 5pm Monday of the publication week. Ads will run for 3 weeks and can be renewed. If an item is sold, please notify accraokyeame@yahoo.com. Send your classifieds to accraokyeame@yahoo.com.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Excellent housekeeper and a great cook, Joyce Anku, is looking for job. She is hardworking, trustworthy and has outstanding references. Please call her directly at 0243472026. (2)

Outstanding housekeeper and cook, Rose Dزامboe, will be looking for work as of April 1. She is efficient and always happy to take instruction and learn new things. Contact Joel at 0244-313-523 or jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (1)

Needed immediately: full time experienced and very responsible driver/Gardner that is good with pets and children, willing and able to help with house chores as needed and run errands. Call Ms. M. Spence 0244311944 or 773-465.(3)

Wanted: Cane furniture for use outdoors, dining/kitchen table chair, a chest of drawers for a bedroom and a washing machine. Please call 0246980077 (2)

Part-time gardener and handyman. I highly recommend Albert Bediako, who also can do some carpentry work as well as minor electrical repairs. Call Marilyn, 774-690, or contact Albert on 024-354-3814. (2)

Family in search of extremely loving cat or kitten. This is an excellent opportunity for an animal wishing to embark on a lifetime of world travel, abundant food, plentiful petting and boundless love. In return, we merely ask that the cat tolerate us (or make a decent show of doing so via consenting to frequent petting and cuddling. An occasional purr would be a big plus.) Please phone Laura at 024 433 0373 or email wanderingsalazars@yahoo.com with information on good candidates. (1)



USAID/GHANA is looking for a Ghanaian national for the position of Voucher Examiner in the Regional Office of Financial Management (ROFM).

The Voucher Examiner will: (1) examine and process vouchers and invoices of multi-million dollar, long-term technical assistance contractors and grantees, both direct and host country, for USAID project and non-project activities and administrative operations, recommending for payment or indicating required clarification or justification; and to control and monitor payment requests and disbursements for USAID project and non-project activities; and, (2) control the routing of all vouchers from official receipt in OFM through final payment and communication to ultimate payee.

Desired Qualifications, Experience & Skills

Education: Post Secondary School training (Diploma) in accounting or business administration is required. A University Degree in Business Economics, Business Management or Accounting is preferred. **Experience:** Two to four years of experience in accounting or a closely related field and practical knowledge of basic accounting concepts and the flow of accounting transactions are required. **Abilities and Skills:** Good general knowledge of accounting office operations is mandatory. Must have the ability to analyze numerous accounting records and determine the need for various types of entries and adjustments; to reconcile and balance accounts; and to relate the purpose and objectives of projects to their costs and fiscal requirements. Excellent interpersonal skills and good computer skills are also required. *(You may collect the complete job description from the USAID/HR Office)*

Annual Salary range: Minimum \$ 63,072,234 to Maximum \$ 104,095,146 (depending on qualification and experience)

HOW TO APPLY

Persons interested in applying should submit cover letter and resume with salary history to:

The Human Resource Specialist

USAID/Ghana, PO Box 1630, Accra, Ghana.

Envelopes should be marked 'VOUCHER EXAMINER'

CLOSING DATE: February 16th 2007.

(Please note that only short-listed applicants will be contacted)

CLASSIFIEDS

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MISCELLAENOUS

Hardworking and **honest gardener** Jonathan Avudtsey will be looking for work as of April 1. Jonathan always has a great attitude and comes very highly recommended. Contact Joel at 0244-313-523 or jbsandefur@yahoo.com. (1)

For Sale: Baby Items

-Graco Single Stroller. In good condition and has served us well. Bonus: Infant car seat with matching pattern is included. Cost: 1,000,000 cedis.

-Schwinn Double Jogging Stroller. Great condition and absolutely perfect for walking around Ghana with two small children (large tires and plenty of straps to keep them from falling out). Cost 2,500,000 cedis.

For inquiries contact Dylan at 0244-311-901. (2)

Honest housekeeper, Monica Amadu, tel: 0288 262 106, is seeking employment. Has worked for the past three years for the Management Counselor. References available. (3)

LifeFitness Equipment For Sale Would you like to own your very own Treadmill or cross trainer? LifeFitness Treadmills and Cross-trainers have arrived at Pippa's Health Centre Ltd. We offer delivery, insatllation, warranties and full technical support.For more details call 224488.(2)

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1997 Chevrolet Blazer 4x4. Mileage 102, 000 km. comfort: ac, power steering, powered windows, mirrors and driver seats. High quality stereo. Security: air bag, ABS aspect: looks nice, alloy wheel engine 4.3 L, petrol, V6(265 horsepower). Transmission: Automatic. Price: \$11,900. 0244-352 6005 (3)

1996 Daewoo Nexia saloon car. Automatic, driver airbag, power steering, electric windows. Reliable, durable and good run a round car. No Duty \$4000 OBO. Pease call 020 813-6962 or 0246 584 384 (3)

2002 Dodge Grand Caravan FWD Sport Mini ASKING PRICE \$18,000 CD & Cassette player; Equipment 3.3 Liter V6 12 Valve 180hp@5200rpm, AC 4 Wheel Power Anti-Lock Brakes 5 Passenger Seating Capacity Dual Sliding Side Doors. Wheelbase: 119.3 inches. Power Rack And Pinion Steering. Curb Weight: 4093 lbs. Power Door Locks. Width: 78.6 inches. Power Windows w/Driver Side. Original Factory Price \$24,275 Contact Information 024-4327424 (3)

Bennett Nyator , tel: 024 383 5294, is seeking employment as a **gardener**. Has worked for the past three years for the Management Counselor. References available. (3)

Humorous Quote: "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play, bring a friend... if you have one."

—George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

2005 Hyundai Accent, petrol engine, A/C, only 6,400 km, duties NOT paid and has to be sold tax exempted. Asking price \$ 8,750; available end of February. Call Inga at 0243-517556 (inga.zacher@ded.de). (1)

For Sale: DSTV box and satellite dish for 2,900,000 cedis. Call Gail at 021-773-465 or 0244311944. (3)

2003 Nissan Murano SE 37,000 miles. All Wheel Drive; 3.5 ltr. 6 cyl; Automatic Transmission; Leather seats; power seats and windows; A/C; ABS. \$25,000 or best offer. Duty not paid. 0244-313-523 (1)

FOR SALE: 2 cd ROMs and 1 cd writer for \$50 for Rachel **FOR FREE** to a good home Indoor cat, neutered, 1 ½ years old, male named Saf-fron Shy at first but warms up and is very loving once she gets to know you, no vices If interested call: 0244-311-499 Or: 763-709 (2)

Wanted: Baby Stuff!

We're looking for baby furniture like a crib, a glider, etc. and other useful baby gear for a new born and for the baby's first year. Let us know if you have anything to sell or will have things to sell soon. Call Katherine 0244.322.524 or Jamie 0242.170.683 or email katherinepasternak@yahoo.com. (3)

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WANTED	VEHICLES FOR SALE	WANTED:
HOUSING. Urgent. Diplomats looking for a safe and quite accommodation in Airport Res., Cantonment, East Legon or Osu with a swimming pool. No agent please. Tel: 0242 266 713 (3)	Golf 3 1992 model Black Radio & CD player, manual Tinted windows and sporty looking . Mileage 265 000km Price: 53 million or US \$ equivalent (negotiable) To view call please call 0244 936 783 after 4pm Mon - Thursday, Friday after 2pm and weekend anytime during the day. (3)	- WANT TO BUY a DVD player -new or second hand- connectable to TV to Record TV programs. Tel: 0242 266 713 " - WANT TO BUY used VIDEO TAPES to record TV programs for my students. If you are leaving the country, please do not throw them, but give them / sell them to me, please ! Tel: 0242 266 713
Housing Needed: Seeking new house, 3 bedroom for rent. Pref in East Legon, Osu, Labone, Cantonments, gated community or best alternative. Call Mikelle at 0243 019535 (3)	For Sale: Toyota Camry 1999 , 4 door sedan, automatic, 74,900 miles Excellent condition US\$9,000 or best offer Sedan, one owner, very well maintained, imported duty free Straw Sofa set large sofa, love seat, two side chairs, and table dark blue cushions \$160 for entire set 2 Straw/bamboo table and chair sets glass top table with four chairs per set \$130 per set Large collection of plants all sizes - will sell for the cost of the Clay pots that they are in Tamashi Split Air Conditioner 2.5HP purchased in March 2005 for US\$725. Will sell for \$400. Infrequently used. Double bed box spring and mattress \$150 or best offer DSTV Box and Satellite Dish \$150 Contact Dorothy Rozga, UNICEF 244 331 500 (2)	- SALE of FRENCH MATERIAL for adults and adolescents. A sale of new and Used books, video, DVD will be held on Saturday 3rd of February from 9-13pm in Airport Res. area. New and used. Prices between 3 US \$ - 15 US \$. If you have some French material that you do not use any longer, sell it or come and trade it ! (2)
HIRING / DRIVER. Urgent. Wish to hire an experienced driver for 1-4 hours / week. Taxi driver OK. Call 0242 266 713 (3)	Wanted: Nissan Terrano or similar size of 4x4 car. Duty paid. Please contact Phil Marshall in Takoradi on 0244 509 445 or 031 30061 (home) or 031 25322 (office) (1)	FOR SALE: EXPAT LEAVING- ITEMS AVAILABLE; GENERAL ELECTRIC DRYER; LG REFRIGERATOR LIVING ROOM FURNITURE; OFFICE EXECUTIVE CHAIRS; OFFICE FILE CABINET; EXERCISE BICYCLE; ASSORTED HOUSE HOLD ITEMS; TABLE GLASSWARE, KITCHEN ITEMS, CANDLE STANDS ETC & LOTS MORE! FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: TEL: 021-271092 MOB:0244-972174 (1)
HIRING / HOUSE MAID. Urgent. Wish to hire a house maid who can cook Chinese, Korean or Japanese food. Please call 0242 266 713 (3)	Windsurfer Wanted: Second hand. Please contact Phil Marshall in Takoradi on 0244 509 445 or 031 30061 (home) or 031 25322 (office) (1)	
POSITION WANTED / HOUSE MAID. Experienced house maid who can cook is looking for a full time or part time position in a house with a place to stay. Please call Cecile 0242 266 713. (3)		
For Sale: DVD box set: Season 1 of the TV series "24." Brand new. \$45 or best offer. Trading possible. Contact Claudia at (021)-77-33-17 or (024)-4-313-520. (1)		
HOUSING NEEDED: I am looking for a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment but would also consider a guest house. I will also house sit. Contact Wade, a Peace Corps volunteer at 0243 525 989. (3)		
WANTED: Used sewing machine. Email, jackjack-fields@gmail.com 233) 024-658-4537 (mobile) (1)		